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as he included in it an essentially complete series of his own extensive collections and added much material received by exchanges effected both in America and other parts of the world, both with professional botanists and amateurs, with museums, large herbaria, and with dealers, he gradually brought together a really notable herbarium, one of the best private botanical collections in any part of the world.

In 1902 the University of Vermont acquired this herbarium under conditions most happily arranged for the comfort of Pringle himself. Not only was the collection given the safe housing he had long desired for it in the substantial biological building of the institution, but he was appointed permanently its curator, with an appropriation for its care. Rarely does a man whose life has been spent in exploration attain a position so congenial and so considerately calculated to permit him in advancing years to organize and correlate the results of his life work.

From the University of Vermont Pringle received the honorary degrees, first of Master of Arts, and later of Doctor of Science.⁶

BENJAMIN LINCOLN ROBINSON.

CHARLES PICKERING PUTNAM (1844-1914)

Fellow in Class II, Section 4, 1912.

Charles Pickering Putnam, M.D.,—well known for many years as a practitioner of medicine, but perhaps more widely known, yet not more warmly remembered, as a devoted worker on the broadest possible lines of social service,—was born in Boston, September 15, 1844, and died, April 23, 1914, in his seventieth year.

His parents were Charles Gideon Putnam and Elizabeth Cabot (Jackson) Putnam. His paternal grandfather was Samuel Putnam of Salem, a well-known and honored member of the Massachusetts Bar and for a long time a Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. His maternal grandfather was Dr. James Jackson, of Boston,

⁶ For further details regarding Mr. Pringle's life, see the biographical sketches by Dr. Ezra Brainerd, *Rhodora*, xiii. 225-232 (1911); by C. R. Orcutt, *Science*, new ser. xxxiv. 176 (1911); and by Prof. George P. Burns, *ibid.* 750-751 (1911).

one of the first and best among the founders of modern medicine in this commonwealth, who lived long enough to see his grandchildren attain to a ripe age and to make them familiar with qualities of mind and heart which impressed them deeply. Judge Putnam's wife, Sarah Gooll, belonged to the distinguished Pickering family of Salem, while Dr. Jackson's wife was a member of the Cabot family, which was then eminent, as it has been since, for the public and private virtues of its representatives.

Dr. Putnam graduated from Harvard College in 1865, and from the Harvard Medical School in 1869. After this he studied abroad, giving special attention to the diseases of children, and in the latter part of 1871 began to devote himself to his profession in Boston. Although he always carried on a general practice, he paid especial attention to pediatrics, and did some excellent pioneer work in orthopedics, then a branch of medicine that was but little known. In 1898 he was President of the American Pediatric Society. He lectured at the Harvard Medical School on the diseases of children from 1873 to 1875, and was clinical instructor in the same branch from 1875 to 1879.

So kindly was his disposition, so full was he of sympathy with others whose lot had been harder than his own, so ready to be a worker and, where need was, a fighter for the embodiment of good principles in good institutions, that he found himself,—almost of necessity, and from the very outset,—plunging more and more deeply into social work.

The history of his private life and medical labors need not be recorded here. It is enough to say that it was made up of a never-ending series of acts of untiring devotion, prompted by the warmest of feelings and the highest sense of duty.

As for his social service work, this was described so well by his relative Mr. Joseph Lee, in a paper first published in the *Boston Med. and Surg. Journal* for May 7, 1914, that I will complete this brief record by the following quotations from that source:

"Dr. Putnam had been since the beginning of his practice of medicine a leader in charitable and social work,—almost from the beginning the most important leader of such work in Boston, the first to take hold and the last to let go of each new and important enterprise.

Dr. Putnam was one of the founders, in 1873, of the little-known but extremely important Boston Society for the Relief of Destitute Mothers and Infants, which was a pioneer in establishing the policy of keeping mother and child together, and was president of the society

from 1904 until his death. In 1875 he became physician to the Massachusetts Infant Asylum, and from 1898 to 1910 he was also president of the board of trustees. The ordinary death-rate in such institutions was at that time something over ninety per cent a year. The Massachusetts Infant Asylum had already brought the rate down to less than a quarter of that figure when Dr. Putnam became connected with it, and he by his skill and devotion again reduced it by two-thirds or more. He was one of those who in 1879 took part in the movement for establishing the Associated Charities, the second charity organization society in this country; and he was always one of the sustaining members of that society in the real, not the conventional, sense, working in many capacities, as president of a conference, as director, as chairman of many committees, including the present important one on inebriety, and, since 1907, as president.

From 1892 to 1897 Dr. Putnam took a leading part in the very important movement for the reorganization of the Boston Institutions for the care of prisoners, of the poor, and of poor, neglected, and delinquent children, being on the special committee appointed by Mayor Matthews in 1892, chairman of the board of visitors of 1893-94, chairman of the standing committee on pauper institutions of the advisory board appointed by Mayor Quincy in 1896, a steady fighter for the reorganization bill of 1897. When the new system of separate unpaid boards of trustees was established he was appointed a member of the Board of Children's Institutions, and was its chairman from 1902 to 1911, performing in that capacity a great and harassing, though invisible and unappreciated, service to his fellow-citizens.

* * * * *

He was active in the campaign against tuberculosis and a director of the Mental Hygiene Association. He was one of the first to take up broad social questions from the legislative end, was the first experienced charity worker to enlist in the Massachusetts Civic League, and helped secure the establishment of the State Board of Insanity.

* * * * *

Dr. Putnam was for a generation the backbone of social work in Boston. We have all looked to him to do the hard things,— to take up the new line at which the timid balked and which the unimaginative could not see, sustaining the old from which the glamor had worn off, stiffening up the weak places, making the hard decisions. He was here, as in all things, a man to accept responsibility, take the burden

on himself, and carry it,—a patient and successful physician to the community as well as to the child.

Dr. Putnam's most distinctive characteristic was the power of enlistment. In each of the many services he undertook it seemed to those he served and to his fellow workers as if that must be the only thing he had to do. There are in every enterprise the helpful men, the wise, the brilliant men, the steady workers. And then there are the essential men, those without whom the thing will not be done. In an extraordinary number of instances Dr. Putnam was among these last. Whatever happened, however badly things might go, whoever else became lukewarm or discouraged, his associates knew that he, at least, would see the thing through, that he had enlisted for the war, intended doing as much, be it more or less, as might be necessary.

* * * * *

Dr. Putnam was a remarkably resourceful man and would reconstruct his patient's world, physically as well as morally, by his calm assumption that anything needed could be done, and in hundreds of cases by doing the most impossible parts himself. Slower minds thought him slow at laying the first brick, whereas he had completed the whole structure in imagination, and was hesitating what kind of chimney-pot to use.

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And the best was the power behind it all in the great kind heart, that would see and know only the best, and, with a quality like the sun, could see only light wherever it was turned."

Dr. Putnam's wife, Lucy Washburn, and three children, Charles Washburn, Tracy Jackson, and Martha, survive him.

J. J. PUTNAM.